



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, February 22, 2026 | First Sunday in Lent

HAPPY ARE THEY WHOSE TRANSGRESSIONS ARE FORGIVEN,
AND WHOSE SIN IS PUT AWAY!

PSALM 32:1

Lent



Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church:

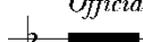
www.christchurchcolumbia.org.

This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

The Officiant at the Litany may be a lay cantor.

Officiant  *People* 

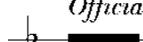
O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 

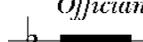
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, I have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 

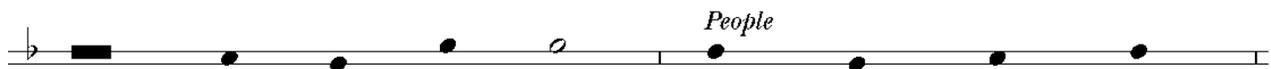
O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faith - ful, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant  *People* 

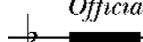
O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant 

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy

People 

preserve us for ev - er. Spare us, good Lord.

Officiant 

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the



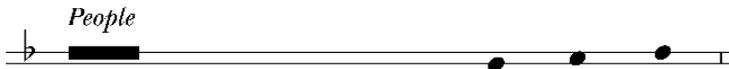
devil; and from everlast - ing dam - na - tion,

People 

Good Lord, de - liv - er us.

(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church Universal in the right way,



People
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

(This same response is sung after the petitions that follow)



Officiant Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.

People Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.



Officiant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, *People* Have mer-cy up-on us.

Officiant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, *People* Have mer-cy up-on us.



Officiant O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, *People* Grant us thy peace.



Officiant O Christ, hear us. *People* O Christ, hear us.

When the litany is sung immediately before the Eucharist, the Litany concludes with the Kyries (which may be sung to any setting), and the Eucharist begins with the Salutation and the Collect of the day.

On all other occasions, the Litany continues as follows:



Officiant Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

People Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Officiant Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



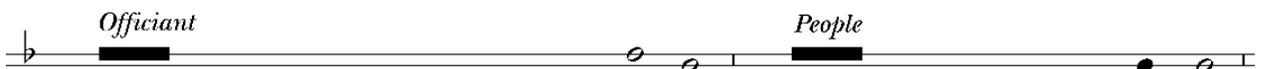
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Chri - ste e - lei - son.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.



Officiant and People Our Father, who art in heaven . . . from evil. A - men.



Officiant V. O Lord, let thy mercy be showed up - on us; *People* R. As we do put our trust in thee.

The Officiant sings the concluding Collect.

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY |

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Reader: *A reading from Genesis.*

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

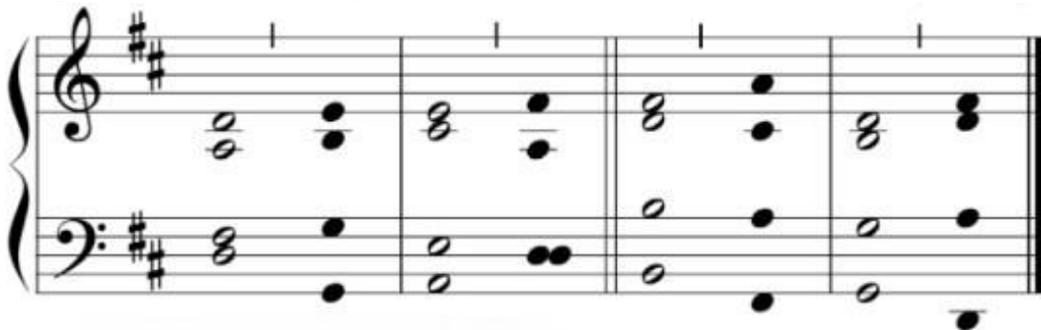
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 32 | *Beati quorum (Candid admission of sin)*



Happy are they whose transgressions are for¹ given, |
and whose sin is put¹ away! ||

Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no¹ guilt, |
and in whose spirit there is no¹ guile! ||

While I held my tongue, my bones withered a-¹ way; |
because of my groaning all day¹ long. ||

For your hand was heavy upon me day and¹ night, |
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of¹ summer. ||

Then I acknowledged my sin to¹ you, |
and did not conceal my¹ guilt. ||

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the¹ Lord." |
Then you forgave me the guilt of my¹ sin. ||

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of¹ trouble; |
when the great waters overflow, they shall not¹ reach them. ||

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from¹ trouble; |
you surround me with shouts of de-¹ liverance. ||

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should¹ go, |
and I will guide you with my¹ eye. ||

Do not be like the horse or mule, which have no under-¹ standing, |
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay¹ near you." ||

Great are the tribulations of the¹ wicked; |
but mercy embraces those who trust in the¹ Lord. ||

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the¹ Lord; |
shout for joy, all who are true of¹ heart. ||

THE EPISTLE | Romans 5:12-19

Reader: *A reading from Romans.*

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN WLP 819 | Guide My Feet

Traditional spiritual

1. Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.
 2. Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.
 3. Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race.
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race.
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race.

Guide my feet Lord, while I run this race, 'cause I
 Hold my hand Lord, while I run this race. 'cause I
 Stand by me Lord, while I run this race. 'cause I

don't want to run this race in vain.
 don't want to run this race in vain.
 don't want to run this race in vain.

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 4:1-11

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness,
Make Thy way plain be-fore Thy face.

9
For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that

13
mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

THE SERMON | The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED |

All:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Intercessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and ever living God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially our President, Governor; and County Executive; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Carol, Greg, Kimberley, MaryAnn, Alta, Mark, Clarence, Diane, Natasha, Mildred, Nancy, Patrick, Winifred, Priscilla, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry, and those who care for them.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

Intercessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear especially those you now name, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **AMEN**

The Confession is omitted today due to the chanting of the Great Litany.

THE PEACE |

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Spiritual, arr. Theron W. Kirk

Please scan to give.



DOXOLOGY 380 vs 3 |

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



THE HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

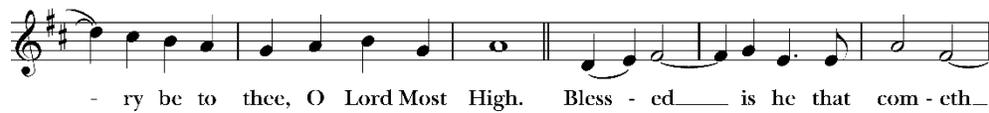
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Celebrant: Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
 word of grace, in strength of which we
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

EUCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | 8 & 10:30 a.m. service

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People: We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

THE BLESSING |

The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond Amen

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
 2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,
 3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
 4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,
 5 A - bid with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,

1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
 2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.
 3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
 4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bid.
 5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

THE DISMISSAL |

The Celebrant dismisses the people who respond.
Thanks be to God!
(The Alleluias are omitted in Lent)

POSTLUDE |

PERMISSIONS | *New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | Book of Common Prayer, 1928 and 1979, Church Publishing, Public Domain | Music and texts under copyright are reprinted and broadcast by permission under OneLicense.net #A-701378 |*

Assisting in Worship Today

8:00 a.m. Service

Chalicer:

Lector/Reader: Kayode Fatodu

Ushers: Kayode Fatodu

10:30 a.m. Service

Acolytes : Shreya Chrzanowski, Wynstan Eguakun, James Mercer

Chalicer: Cheryl Lucente

Lector/Reader: Steve Alpern, Wynstan Eguakun

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,
 Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Altar Guild: Cara Ocampo, Jan DeBoissiere, Maria Rios, Virginia Jarrett

Tellers: Mary Oladipupo, Sarah Mugo

PARISH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 22 –28, 2026

Sunday, February 22

8:00 am Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am – 9:30 am Coffee Hour
9:00 am– 9:30 am Family Worship – New Brick, UL
9:30 am – 10:30 am Sunday School, Sunday Circle
10:30 am Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
12:00 – 6:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Prep (Youth Group) – New Brick, LL
12:30 – 5:30 pm Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
1:00 – 5:00 pm Education for Ministry (EfM) – Zoom & Parish Hall, CR
1:15 – 5:30 pm Sundays @ 3 Concert – New Brick, UL
4:30 – 7:30 pm Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
6:00 – 7:30 pm Lenten Vespers – New Brick, UL

Monday, February 23

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm Refugee Ministry Meeting – Zoom
8:00 – 8:20 pm Lenten Compline with Mother Marcia – website, YouTube, Facebook

Tuesday, February 24

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm Weekly Staff Meeting
6:30 – 8:30 pm Vestry Meeting – New Brick, LL
7:30 – 9:00 pm CEC Book Club – Zoom

Wednesday, February 25

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 9:00 pm Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm 300th Yr Communications Committee Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, February 26

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm Lenten Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
6:30 – 9:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
6:30 – 9:00 pm Education for Ministry (EfM): Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, February 27

7:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm Evening Prayer Livestream
8:00 – 8:20 pm Lenten Compline with Mother Marcia – website, YouTube, Facebook

Saturday, February 28

8:30 am– 12:00 pm Lenten Reflection Day – Old Brick
10:30 – 12:30 pm Winter Exercise Group – New Brick, LL
2:00 pm AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm Altar Guild prep



ANNOUNCEMENTS



If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS

LENT at Christ Church

Our [Lent at Christ Church](#) page contains details for our worship, formation, and fellowship gatherings throughout the season. This is also where you can read our Daily Lenten Meditations, which will be published every weekday morning, both there and on our Instagram and Facebook pages. In addition to those, we'll have an inspirational *Saturday Song* posted every weekend, as well - something to enjoy, to lift your spirits, and to comfort your heart. We hope you'll find it a useful part of your Lenten journey.

Other Ways to Enrich Your Lenten Journey

This year, Christ Church also provides additional online resources to further enrich your Lenten experience. In addition to our [Daily Lenten Meditations](#), you can also visit our website for a link to The Episcopal Church's Lectionary calendar, where you can find Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel readings.

The second resource on our page is provided by Sister Monica Clare, an Episcopal nun and author - [and unlikely TikTok star](#). She invites us to rediscover—or deepen—habits of prayer, worship, and engagement with Scripture. These "holy habits" provide a path to a life shaped, given meaning, and directed by a deeper relationship with God. Visit the Christ Church website at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/other-lenten-resources for these links and details.

Lenten Taizé Vespers - Sunday Evenings

Vespers is a liturgy of Evening Prayer that combines scripture readings, prayer, silent meditation, and rich music. Each Sunday evening, Christ Church offers a service of contemplative prayer and music in the tradition of the Taizé community of France. It offers this special service on Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. in New Brick, offering different opportunities for prayer, music, and reflection. This worship of reflection offers a chance to meditate on God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims on the way.

Centering Prayer - Mondays

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. Be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is 817 6254 3177, and the Passcode is CP. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church Book Club - Tuesdays

The Christ Church Book Club is an informal online conversation that decides on a book and discusses it as a group, offering different perspectives and experiences. We'll begin a new book for Lent this week, and we'll tackle and discuss a chapter or two each week. [The Zoom link is here](#), the Meeting ID is 853 4359 7339, and the Passcode is CECBC.

Christ Church's Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series

Each year, the Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series is one of the most enriching experiences of the season. We are always thankful to the members of Christ Church's Spiritual Life Commission, who work so hard to put this, and other, events together. The WELS series offers five weeks of insightful, life-transforming seminars. Kicking off the series this Wednesday is Bishop Robert Ihloff, who will present his perspective on our 2026 Spiritual Life Theme, *Building Relationships through Love*.

The clergy presenters for this year are:

February 25: Right Reverend Robert Ihloff

March 4: Reverend Richard Ginnever

March 11: Reverend Tim Grayson

March 18: Reverend Emmanuel Ato Mercer

March 25: Archdeacon Denise Schiavone

We begin each evening at 6:30 p.m. with a communal supper in the Great Hall - each week, a different Christ Church ministry group provides the potluck meal - followed by our guest presenter. The evening then concludes with a brief, informal Eucharist. There's no other series like this at Christ Church throughout the year, and we highly encourage you to gather with us for this unique discussion and fellowship.

Lenten Healing Eucharist with Father Manny - Thursdays during Lent

Beginning February 19th and gathering each Thursday during Lent, Christ Church offers a midday Healing Eucharist in Old Brick. The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer leads this service of readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist.

Parishioners and community members are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God, and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

C'mon, all you singers and music lovers! Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings in New Brick, and everyone is welcome to take part. Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our Vocal or Handbell Choirs! If you're interested, please email music@christchurchcolumbia.org

Lenten Evening Compline with Mother Marcia - Mondays and Fridays

Beginning this Friday, the Rev. Marcia Davenport leads this series of online worship, a Christ Church tradition that you can participate in from wherever you are. Each service is unique, featuring liturgy from a different prayer book, and contains Mother Marcia's personal reflections and messages written expressly for this series and relevant to the Lenten season. You can find these streams on our website, YouTube, and Facebook pages at 8:00 p.m. Monday and Fridays throughout Lent, or you can tune in any time afterwards. Don't miss this personal way to begin and end each busy week with a peaceful evening of Lenten worship.

Christ Church Sunday School Helps LEMS - March 8

On Sunday, March 8, the younger Sunday school students and their parents will gather to assemble snack bags for LEMS instead of holding classes. Please come ready to help with this project for Lent!

WOCC at Toby's Dinner Theatre - April 17

Next up: a night at Toby's! Join us for *The Wizard of Oz* on Friday, April 17. Family and friends are welcome to a night of food and fun as we gather at 6:00 p.m. for the buffet dinner, followed by the feature production.

The cost is \$85. for adults and \$81. for children, and you can pay via Realm (write *TOBY'S* in the memo line). You can sign up in the Narthex, and must do so by March 15th.

Find a Ministry that's Right for You

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the vibrant, active, dedicated parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others. None of these requires weekly assistance - they only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. For those interested in the Altar Guild, please email altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org. For Inreach, please email inreach@christchurchcolumbia.org (or [visit their website page](#)). If you're interested in assisting elsewhere, please call the Church Office at office@christchurchcolumbia.org. Thanks!

Stay in Touch with the Larger Church Family

Maryland Episcopalian is a service that spotlights and tells the stories around our Diocese. This month, there's a little interview with our own beloved Archdeacon Denise Schiavone, and so much more! Visit marylandepiscopalian.org

Bookmark the *Diocese of Maryland's* website, which covers on the [diocesan](#), [young adult](#), and [youth](#) activities and gatherings. Visit episcopalmaryland.org

The *Episcopal News Service* (ENS) offers in-depth reporting of local, regional, national, and international news for Episcopalians and others interested in the church's mission and ministry. ENS is the official news source of the Episcopal Church. Visit episcopalnewsservice.org

And always stay in touch with your beloved *Christ Church!* We have our Lenten schedule online, which details every service, fellowship, and gathering taking place throughout the season. You can also look back at [every Sunday worship](#) this decade (and beyond), learn about our [initial 300th Anniversary plans](#), explore [our history](#), and so much more. Visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org

Nursery Care Assistant Needed

Christ Church is seeking a Nursery Care Assistant to help with our youngest members of our parish family during Sunday services and other special events. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this position, please have them contact Amanda Kirkpatrick, Christ Church's Nursery Care Coordinator, at nursery@christchurchcolumbia.org. Be sure to place "Nursery Care Assistant" in the subject line of your email. You can also call the church office and let them know. Thank you.

Do You Love Sharing Stories and Reading?

Did you know that we have volunteers who read a Bible story to our youngest children in the nursery? We can always use more, and we welcome anyone - young, or young at heart - to participate in this ministry. We have books and children's Bibles, or you can bring your favorite story to share. There is no preparation needed; you can do it as often or as little as you wish, and it only takes ten minutes on a Sunday morning. If you are interested, don't hesitate to get in touch with Jenn Atkins at dandjatkins@verizon.net or speak with any Sunday School volunteer.

Bridges for Housing Stability Gets Funds to Help Families in Need

Christ Church has had a meaningful partnership with [Bridges to Housing Stability](#) for nearly a decade, ranging from participation in chili-cookoffs to a volunteer project last fall to refurbish Bridges' Guilford House.

In response to community needs, the Outreach Commission, at its February meeting, approved a \$1,000 donation to Bridges and became a sponsor of its annual [Heroes for Housing fundraiser](#). The donation will go toward the nonprofit organization's housing stability programs to help people keep a roof over their heads, as described in Bridges' [online client stories post](#). These are Vestry-approved funds derived from parishioners' pledges and contributions. Thank you!

At the Heroes for Housing event held this week at a Merriweather District restaurant, Christ Church was represented by Jan DeBoissiere and Beth Johnson (see photos). Civic leaders were honored in three categories: Advocate for Change: Kelly Cimino, director of Howard County Housing & Community Development; Housing for All: Grace Morris, executive director of Heritage Housing Partners Corp., and Pillar of the Community: HCAR Cares.

DeBoissiere was among the Christ Church volunteers who performed landscaping, painting, drywall and stairwell repairs at Guilford House (see photos). A team led by Outreach members George and Sharha Toth also included Cathy Gold, Eileen Harlee, Dave Lanczynski, and Outreach member Michon Semon. Read about their work in the [Outreach Blog of Dec. 18, 2025](#).

Guilford House is home to several returning citizens who have gotten their lives on track after incarceration. Bridges operates this transitional housing in partnership with the Howard County Department of Corrections.

Bridges' programs are intended to prevent and end homelessness in Howard County. These include [Bridges Alliance](#), which offers a "Circle of Support" for low-to-moderate-income tenants of its properties; an initiative that collaborates with landlords; and its new [HoCo Home Share program](#), which could benefit empty-nesters. [Family Home Start](#) aims to reduce the number of homeless students in county public schools.

Please Bring Diapers, Non-Perishables for CCC/FISH, And Consider Volunteering from Home to Take Phone Calls from Neighbors in Need

[FISH](#) and [Columbia Community Care \(CCC\)](#) partnered last year and merged their pantries. CCC continues to hand out food at three sites on Saturday mornings and by home delivery to Howard County residents. For information, go online to [Get Help](#).

FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label "FISH/CCC". Please bring baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes.

FISH will continue to provide telephone support to Howard County residents to provide guidance and financial support because the personal touch is very important when people are in crisis. You could be the one to lend a helping hand, by lending an ear!

As a phone volunteer, you can help from your home by giving just one day a month to assisting those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong or email him at andydelong.fish@gmail.com. Thank you always for your support.



Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org
office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*
The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*
The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*
Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*
Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*
Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*
Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*
John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
- Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
- Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson